State Of South Dakota

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION FOR VALOR

Office Of The Governor

On Tuesday, April 28, 1982, Jason Halajian, 9, and Eric Denekamp, 6, both of Watertown, South Dakota, became stranded on a raft in the center of a pond.

In an effort to get help, Jason starting swimming for the shore. Quickly overcome by the frigid water, he sank, struggling, beneath the surface of the pond.

Alerted by the boys' cries for help, Theresa Koster, 11, of Watertown, arrived at the scene in time to see Jason disappear beneath the water. Exhibiting both presence of mind and a clear understanding of the necessity for immediate action, Theresa jumped into the water and swam for Jason.

Reaching the spot where the boy had gone under, Theresa dived down and brought him to the surface. She guided and helped him to the shore, where he quickly recovered. Meanwhile, another passer-by had swum out to the raft with Eric still aboard and had pushed the raft to the safety of the shore.

The greatest acts of bravery involve both mental poise and physical courage. Theresa's quick thinking and strong swimming proved the crucial difference between life and death for a fellow human being. Her life-saving endeavor on that April day sets an example for all South Dakotans to respect and emulate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby publicly proclaim the valor of

THERESA KOSTER

and I join with Theresa's family and friends in saluting her willingness to risk her own life to save the life or another.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alice Kundert

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

BY Jay D. Vogt

JAY D. VOGT, DEPUTY

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE APPEARING ON THIS SLIDE OF MICROFILM IS AN ACCURATE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AND WAS MICROFILMED IN THE REGULAR COURSE OF BUSINESS ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA COMPILED LAW 1-27-4. IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS USED FOR MICROFILMING OF THE ABOVE RECORDS WAS IN A MANNER AND ON MICROFILM WHICH MEET THE RECOMMENDED TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS FOR PERMANENT MICROFILM REPRODUCTIONS.
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